

Message Text

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R 041621Z FEB 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL MUNICH
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027105

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL

SUBJECT: RFE DECEMBER 5 BROADCAST TO POLAND

REF: WARSAW 594 (NOTAL)

1. DEPT. HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING REPORT FROM EMBASSY
WARSAW CONCERNING AN RFE BROADCAST IN POLISH ON DEC. 5,
1975:

QUOTE

--- SUMMARY. RFE POLISH SERVICE DAILY COMMENTARY
NO. 3000, DECEMBER 5, 1975, CONTAINS A PERSONAL ATTACK ON
PROFESSOR JANUSZ SYMONIDES, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE POLISH
INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (PISM). WE BELIEVE THAT
THE PASSAGE CITED BELOW IS IN CLEAR VIOLATION OF RFE
INTERNAL GUIDELINE NO. 12 AS CONTAINED IN THE EISENHOWER
COMMISSION REPORT, "THE RIGHT TO KNOW." END SUMMARY

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--- IN TAKING ISSUE WITH AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY SYMONIDES

IN ZYCIE WARSZAWY, SCRIPT AUTHOR W. TROSCIANKO PLAYS ON SYMONIDES' NAME IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE. BEGIN QUOTE: BUT LET'S GO BACK TO MR. SYMONIDES, WHOSE NAME REMINDS ME BY ITS SOUND OF A CHARACTER IN POLISH LITERATURE, NAMELY CHILON CHILONIDES, BUT, OF COURSE, BEFORE THE LATTER WAS

CONVERTED, EXPRESSED HIS REGRETS, AND BECAME A MARTYR. IF PROFESSOR SYMONIDES IS MARTYRED IT IS ONLY BY THE EFFORTS TO PUT TOGETHER READY-MADE PHRASEOLOGY, A JOB THAT IS SURELY DIFFICULT. BUT THE MARTICES HAVE BEEN READY FOR ALONG TIME. END QUOTE.

--- THE CHILON CHILONIDES REFERENCE IS TO A NEGATIVE CHARACTER IN SIENKIEWICZ'S QUO VADIS, A PERSECUTOR OF CHRISTIANS WHO ADMITTED HIS ERRORS IN THE END.

--- RESTRAINT NO. 12 READS: BEGIN QUOTE: RFE WILL NOT BROADCAST ANY MATERIAL WHICH COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS PETTY GOSSIP, SLANDER, OR ATTACKS ON THE PERSONAL LIVES OR FAMILIES OF GOVERNMENT OR PARTY FIGURES, OR ON INDIVIDUALS AS SUCH. THIS IS NOT MEANT TO EXCLUDE THE DISCUSSION OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS. END QUOTE.

--- COMMENT: THE PLAY ON SYMONIDES' NAME IS NOT ONLY IN POOR TASTE AND A PERSONAL ATTACK IN CONTRAVENTION OF GUIDELINE NO. 12, BUT IS DETRIMENTAL TO EMBASSY EFFORTS TO USE PISM TO BRING LEADING AMERICAN OFFICIALS, JOURNALISTS, AND ACADEMICS BEFORE AUDIENCES OF INFLUENTIAL POLES. SYMONIDES HAS BEEN AMONG THE MOST HELPFUL OF PISM OFFICIALS IN ARRANGING THE VISITS AND APPEARANCES OF AMERICAN SPEAKERS. WHILE WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHY, SYMONIDES, WHO PREVIOUSLY MADE EVERY EFFORT TO MEET VISITING AMERICANS, REFUSED TO ATTEND A JANUARY 30 RECEPTION IN HONOR OF USIA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR J. SHIRLEY. WE FEAR THAT MUCH CAREFUL WORK IN DEVELOPING SYMONIDES' COOPERATION MAY HAVE BEEN RUINED BY AN UNNECESSARY ATTACK WHICH HAS NO REAL RELEVANCE TO THE AUTHOR'S CRITIQUE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF SYMONIDES' ARTICLE. DAVIES
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UNQUOTE

2. PLEASE BRING MESSAGE ABOVE TO ATTENTION OF RFE MANAGEMENT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING RFE'S REACTION TO EMBASSY WARSAW'S COMPLAINT ABOUT A POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF INTERNAL POLICY GUIDELINES. BIB CONCURS. INGERSOLL

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